FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ORIGINAL

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'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGES TO ARAB LEADERS ON S. LEBANON

JN191524Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday sent messages to the Arab kings and presidents on the outcome of the battles in southern Lebanon. The radio correspondent has learned that the messages also dealt with the fabulous steadfastness of the joint forces during these battles, with the adverse impact of these battles and with subsequent developments.

BAGHDAD VOP ON 'ARAFAT'S ACTIONS AGAINST OPPONENTS

JN192017Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--For the (?6th) day in a row, the gangs of 'Arafat, Abu Jihad, Abu az-Za'im and Abu al-Hawl are continuing to attack Fatah fighters and Palestinian revolution fighters who oppose the schemes of this leadership and who are against the stationing of UN troops in Lebanon.

A wave of indignation prevails in the bases of the revolutionaries who have condemned 'Arafat's crime and refuse to be a tool of this crime. All political forces and the progressive parties have denounced this abominable crime and have expressed their absolute support for the Fatah fighters and for the nationalist and democratic forces in the Palestinian revolution which reject bargaining over the cause of the masses and which reject 'Arafat capitulatory policy with the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance.

Reports also state that a martyr fell and a number of Fatah men were wounded during these clashes with 'Arafat's fascist clique. Reports indicate that 'Arafat was met with slogans of indignation from Al-'Asifah forces when he visited the forces in Sidon yesterday.

It has been learned that brother Abu Dawud, member of the Fatah revolutionary council, is commanding the Al-'Asifah forces which are valiantly confronting the Zionist forces and 'Arafat's renegade clique. The reports point out that the aim of this brutal attack by 'Arafat and his clique is to liquidate the nationalist and democratic forces in the Fatah movement and that this action is part of a deal concluded between 'Arafat and the parties to the imperialist-reactionary alliance.

'ARAFAT TO TOUR GULF COUNTRIES THIS MONTH

LD191528Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-AMM reports today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be visiting a number of countries in the gulf before the end of this month. He will have talks with officials of these countries on the current Arab situation.

AFGAN PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO 'ARAFAT

JN191538Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received a message from Afgan President Mohammad Daud. Our correspondent has learned that the message stressed Afghanistan's absolute support for the Palestinian revolution and people.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR JERUSALEM EXPLOSION

JN181659Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Our Palestinian revolutionaries have set off a time bomb inside a shop in the commercial quarter of occupied Jerusalem, destroying large areas of the shop, damaging most of its contents and injuring an unspecified number of the enemy. This was announced by the military spokesman of the Palestinian revolution general command in a statement issued today. It reads as follows:

One of our fighting groups working inside the occupied homeland placed a large time bomb inside one of the shops of the commercial quarter in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The explosive charge went off on time at 1430 yesterday, 17 April, destroying large areas of the shop and damaging most of its contents. An unspecified number of the enemy were wounded.

Following the incident, the Zionist police sealed off the area with roadblocks, evacuated the commercial quarter and began a wide-scale combing operation in search of other explosive charges. Meanwhile, the Zionist police in Jerusalem called on the settlers by radio to be cautious and alert, especially in crowded areas, markets and transportation vehicles. Our revolutionaries returned safely to their bases. Zionist police sources have admitted the operation and said that the explosion damaged the shop and injured two people.

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS ON SAUDI-IRAQI-IRANIAN SECURITY TALKS

JN191544Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1350 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 19 April--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today reports that the gulf is moving toward creating a security belt. Saudi Arabia now feels the need to activate contacts on both sides of the gulf. These contacts stopped after the latest conference of gulf foreign ministers held in Muscat. Quoting informed diplomatic sources, AS-SIYASAH says that His Highness Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, is expected to visit Teheran to deliver a message from the Saudi monarch to the shah. The paper says that the visit to Teheran by Crown Prince Fahd will come after the visit to Baghdad by the Saudi minister of defense and aviation and will be aimed at developing some kind of security and defense cooperation among the three big gulf litoral countries. The paper further says that this cooperation will begin with a meeting of the interior and defense ministers of the three countries to draw up a joint collective working formula for the gulf region to face foreign threats to the area.

QADDUMI RECEIVES YUGOSLAV YOUTH DELEGATION

LD171756Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1607 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Beirut, April 17 (TANJUG)--Head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi received a delegation of the Yugoslav Socialist Youth Union in Beirut today. In an extensive and cordial talk, Qaddumi informed the Yugoslav delegation in detail on the current situation in southern Lebanon, as well as on Palestinian positions on the Middle East crisis. He also spoke in acknowledgment of the continual and principled support extended by Yugoslavia to the Palestinian people and its revolution.

Also discussed in the talks was the activity to date and coming activity of the non-aligned countries' playing as active a role as possible to the end of resolving crisis situations such as those in the middle east, the Horn of Africa, southern Africa and elsewhere.

The Yugoslav youth delegation also met with officials of the "General Union of Palestinian Students and Youth" today. Possibilities for further promoting cooperation between the two organizations as well as preparations for the coming festival of non-aligned youth and student organizations to be held in Havana this summer were discussed. In this respect, the importance of the closest possible cooperation among non-aligned youth and student organizations was underlined.

IRAQI INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS WITH HABASH IN HAVANA

JN200933Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Havana, 20 April--Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi met here last night with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash.

It will be recalled that Dr Hammudi is in Havana to attend the meetings of the ministerial council for the coordination of information among the nonalined states while Dr Habash is paying a visit to Cuba.

KHALID AL-HASAN URGES RESISTANCE'S RETURN TO SECRECY

NC201139Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 20 April--Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, has called on Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and on the Syrian leaders to act to achieve coexistence and detente between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He also called for the formation of a Lebanese-Palestinian committee under the patronage of the Lebanese president which would work to remove the grudges between the two sides and discuss ways to restore stability to Lebanon.

In an exclusive statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, Al-Hasan said internecine fighting produces no solution and confidence must be restored between the two sides. He affirmed that any discussion of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon for any purpose other than this one will lead to untold consequences. It will also lead to a Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese crisis and even an Arab crisis more dangerous and violent than has ever been known before.

Discussing the prospects for an Arab summit conference, Al-Hasan said that Egypt holds the key to the convening of such a conference and any attempt to bypass this fact will fail utterly. He said that convening such a conference is beyond the capability of the committee set up recently by the Arab League.

Concluding his statement, Al-Hasan held PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat responsible for the multiplicity of the Palestinian organizations and leaderships. He repeated his call for Palestinian activity to return to secrecy, for fedayeen activity to go underground and for the deviation which has occurred in the political ideology of the Palestinian action to be corrected.

KUWAIT

MINISTER DENIES PRESENCE OF SOVIET EXPERT

JN181148Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 18 April--Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim has denied reports that he intends to visit the United States at the head of a Kuwaiti delegation. In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, he also denied the presence of a Soviet military expert [singular as received] in Kuwait to train the Kuwaiti Army on the use of the SAM-6 and SAM-7 missles which Kuwait recently bought from the Soviet Union. The Kuwaiti defense minister said that his country is not restricted to buying arms from certain countries. Kuwait purchases those arms which it believes will insure the interests of Kuwait and the Arab nation.

The defense minister returned to Kuwait from London last night after a 2-week private visit.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER RETURNS FROM VISIT TO IRAQ

JN191503Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 April--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, returned to Riyadh from Baghdad this afternoon following a 3-day visit to fraternal Iraq at the invitation of Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, Iraqi defense minister.

While in Iraq, his highness held talks with Iraqi officials dealing with the means to strengthen cooperation between the two fraternal countries and with issues of mutual interest.

MINISTER LEAVES FOR TEHERAN WITH MESSAGE

JN191400Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Planning Minister His Excellency Shaykh Hisham Nazir left Riyadh this afternoon for Teheran on a visit to Iran. SNA has learned that his excellency is carrying an important message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to His Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, shah of Iran.

QATARI OIL MINISTER RECEIVED BY KING KHALID

JN191702Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 April--His Exalted Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received in his office at Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1800 today His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of oil and finance, who is currently visiting the kingdom to participate in the fourth session of the Board of Governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

Received by Oil Minister

JN191214Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 19 April--Petroleum and Minerals Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani today met with Qatari Petroleum and Finance Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, who is visiting the kingdom to attend the fourth session of the Board of Governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

Shaykh Yamani said the meeting dealt with a number of matters of concern to both countries, including petroleum affairs. In a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY after the meeting, Shaykh Yamani confirmed that OPEC's coming meeting will be held in Ta'if on 6 May. He added that OPEC's coming ministerial meeting has no agenda but will discuss all matters of concern to the conferees.

Shaykh Yamani explained that the meeting aims at formulating a unified plan for the future of OPEC and energy in the world and at setting a firm policy which could be followed in the future.

UAE

COMMITTEE TO PREPARE FOR ENERGY CONFERENCE

JN162041Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--A responsible source at the UAE Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources has stated that a committee made up of representatives of the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Information and Finance has been formed to make arrangements for convening the first Arab energy conference scheduled for Abu Dhabi in March 1979. The conference is organized by the Arab oil-producing countries and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The source added that all the Arab countries and several international representatives will participate in the conference, which will discuss energy questions from both the Arab and international standpoints. Moreover, during the conference meetings, the Arab viewpoints regarding the status of world energy and the effects of world developments on the status of Arab energy will be expressed.

DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVE

JN191952Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Dubayy, 19 April--Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, UAE defense minister, received here today Kibhi Hallum, director of the PLO office in the UAE. Following the meeting, Hallum said that he had acquainted Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid with the Lebanese situation following the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

AL-WAHDAH CALLS FOR UNIFIED ARAB DINAR

JN160912Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 April--In its issue today, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH calls for the issuance of a unified Arab dinar to confront the continued devaluation of the dollar, since it has been confirmed that it will not regain its previous status. The paper says: The EEC--as recently announced by its secretary general--is considering the issuance of a currency as substitute to the U.S. dollar. This means that the dollar is no longer a reliable currency.

YEMEN--PDRY

UPONF SECRETARY GENERAL ATTENDS RALLY

LD182056Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] "Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] and chairman of the Politburo's subcommittee, has stressed the interest of UPONF in the Sixth Governorate, which has fought for and defended the revolution and the homeland as one of the fortresses of the 14 October Revolution."

This is what Isma'il said in an address at a big rally held last night in the town of Al-Ghaydhah in the central province of the Sixth Governorate, which was attended by people from all parts of the province.

"The rally was attended by brothers 'Ali Salih Ubad Muqbil, Politburo member and chairman of the Secretariat of the Central Committee; Anis Hasan Yahya, Politburo member and secretary of the Economy Department of the Central Committee; Salih Muslih Qasim, Politburo member and interior minister; Sa'id Askari, Central Committee member and secretary of UPONF in the Sixth Governorate; and Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, head of the Executive Bureau of the local People's Council of the Sixth Governorate and the Governorate's accountant."

After the rally Secretary General Isma'il toured local fisheries projects.

Makes Statement

LD192102Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization-National Front, today returned to Aden from the Sixth Governorate.

"Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il hailed the role of the masses in the Sixth Governorate on the side of the goals of the revolution. He reiterated the interest of the organization and the government of the revolution in this brave governorate, which had always struggled and was and still is one of the fortresses of the revolution--steadfast in face of aggressors and invaders and a defender of the revolution and its gains.

"Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il reaffirmed the support of the 14 October Revolution and its nationalist progressive regime in Democratic Yemen for the struggle of the heroic Omani people under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman.

"Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il also praised the steadfastness of and the sacrifices made by the armed forces, saying that our armed forces are capable of resisting any conspiracy or aggression, however strong the perpetrator."

BRIEFS

GDR ENVOY'S FAREWELL--Gunther Scharfenberg called on Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today to bid him farewell on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty as GDR ambassador to the PDRY. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 78 LD/EA]

NEW ENGLISH PUBLICATION--Dubai, 16 April--The first issue of the English language newspaper AL-KHALIJ TIMES was published here today. This is the second newspaper in English to be published in the UAE. The first, published in Abu Dhabi, is the AKHBAR AL-IMARAT [EMIRATES NEWS]. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0958 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN]

BANGLADESH INFORMATION DELEGATION--Abu Dhabi, 16 April--Ghazi Azhar, Bangladesh undersecretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, arrived here this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to the UAE. During his visit Ghazi Azhar will hold talks with Ahmad Hamid, UAE information and culture minister, on aspects of information. [Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN]

AS-SADAT VISITS AL-BAHR AL-AHMAR, SEES U.S. DELEGATION

NC191634Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat began his visit to Al-Bahr al-Ahmar Province this afternoon at the end of his tour of the provinces in the southern part of the valley. President as-Sadat began his visit by opening an ice factory in Al-Ghurdaqah. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and War and War Production Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, head of the presidential office Hasan Kamil, and Housing and Reconstruction Minister Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi.

The president and his entourage then went to Al-Ghurdaqah Harbor on the Red Sea, where he distributed title deeds of 1,500 feddan to Al-'Urban tribes in Wadi al-Kharit and Wadi 'Abbad. Al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governor Maj Gen 'Ali Ahmad 'Uthman gave a silver map to the president. The map shows the province's landmarks and most important towns.

President as-Sadat then distributed ownership certificates for 25 launches to fishermen in the general association of fishermen. The fishermen presented him with a gift in the form of a silver model of one of the best-known species of fish in the Red Sea. President as-Sadat then distributed monetary awards to the best fishermen in Al-Ghurdaqah Harbor.

Later President as-Sadat and the delegation accompanying him attended a reception held in the president's honor by the fishermen folklore groups and Al-'Urban tribes. Folklore and tribal dances were performed during the reception. The president then launched two modern ships which will soon join the Red Sea fleet.

War College Delegation

NC191748Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Al-Ghurdaqah, 19 April--Today in Al-Ghurdawah President Anwar as-Sadat received a delegation of the U.S. national war college. The meeting was attended by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts.

The president's meeting with the 24-man delegation lasted about an hour. General al-Jamasi met this morning with members of the visiting delegation.

AL-AHRAM: U.S. CONGRESS APPROVES AID FOR TELEMETRY CENTER

LD181936Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Apr 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Text] The AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the Egytpian Telemetry Center has received a letter from the U.S. Congress approving the continuation of aid for the center until 1980. This came after a survey of the scientific progress achieved by the center in the field of the use of satellites for exploring subterranean sources of wealth in Egyptian and Arab territory.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences and its Research Council--the highest U.S. scientific body--had submitted a report to Congress saying that the Egytpian project, which is headed by an Egyptian scientist in the United States--Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hadi--is one of the most successful projects of scientific cooperation between the United States and Third World countries and an example of what such projects could achieve in the future through the use of the most up-to-date technological know-how in the service of development objectives and projects.

It is understood that in the past 5 years the Egyptian Telemetry Center carried out a survey of natural resources of over 75 percent of Egyptian territory with the help of satellites.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM WRITER'S IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. VISIT

LD181310Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Apr 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "The World Opens Its Arms for Us"]

[Excerpts] Washington--The Egyptian consul in New York once took a taxi and on the way the driver asked him about his nationality. Egyptian, the consul said. At which the cabdriver stopped and asked the consul to get out immediately because he refused to allow Egyptians to ride in his car. The Egyptian consul was forced to leave.

This incident happened in New York some 20 years ago. The cabdriver was a Jew and it was natural for the Jews to hate the Egyptians because they were at war with them. But what was not natural was that the Egyptian should be so hated by non-Jewish citizens of a major power. The reason for this was that we had succeeded in giving the appearance of being the ugly Egyptian who made threats and caused trouble. The Zionists contributed to exaggerating this image.

Today the Egyptian goes out into the world to find that a look of admiration and appreciation has replaced that of hatred and criticism. We find confidence instead of suspicion and respect instead of ridicule. The world is taking a new look at us--a look at a civilized state that knows how to fight, how to win and how to make peace.

This week I met students and faculty members of the University of Missouri and some 700 chief editors of U.S. newspapers at a luncheon at which President Carter spoke and answered questions from journalists. Earlier, I had met with American chief editors and with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at another luncheon. I can say that no foreign president has ever won the respect and admiration of the American people--who are hard to please--as has President Anwar as-Sadat. Never before has the Arab viewpoint been given the chance it is being given now, whether in the U.S. press, on television or on radio.

If the result of the peace initiative were only that it had enabled the Arab viewpoint to enter every American home, then this in itself would be an achievement. Had the Arabs spent billions of dollars, they could not have achieved this result--which no one imagined. For 30 years we have been supporting the Arab cause in the world, but no one has heard us. This is because we made speeches in the United States addressed back to our own people, and not the world--as if we wanted to convince ourselves and not world opinion.

In my opinion, As-Sadat's courage in making the trip to Jerusalem has opened doors which had been closed to us, and we have entered those doors in the manner As-Sadat has chosen in order to speak to the world in the language he has chosen--sincerity, simplicity, humility and belief in the message of peace.

During my meetings with U.S. congressmen I heard them express optimism that peace is bound to come, but they expect Begin to budge only very slowly. They said that when Begin was recently in Washington he almost lost control of himself during discussions because he noticed that U.S. congressmen and representatives were not convinced of his interpretation of Resolution No 242. Or, as one congressman told him: We read the resolution in English and find that it means the evacuation of occupied territories. You read it in Hebrew and we find that it means the occupation of territories.

Senator Thomas Eagleton, who is one of the senators opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state, told me that no one can deny that the atmosphere in Congress has changed. In the past, when the U.S. president asked us to endorse a $500 million aid program for Israel, Congress would tell him: Only $500 million? That is not enough. The aid should be $1 billion. But Congress today asks questions, discusses and proposes reductions.

Some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee told me Begin was stunned when he met committee members and was bombarded with questions and objections. Those who attended the meeting with Begin said that never had an Israeli prime minister been questioned so sharply in the U.S. Congress. An Israeli prime minister is accustomed only to hearing applause in Congress. Senator Eagleton told me that he believes Israel should withdraw from the West Bank and be replaced by UN soldiers and that U.S. troops should take part in such a UN force. He also believes that the Palestinian people should be asked in a referendum whether they would accept joining an Arab country or whether the territory should remain under Israeli rule.

The Zionists in the United States are angered by the success the Arab viewpoint has achieved and long for the days when Egyptian leaders used to make statements saying they were determined to fight against Israel because the day after such statements were made, the United States would grant Israel 200 tanks. They also recall the days when Egyptian rulers used to say they wanted to destroy Israel; on the following day the United States would hasten to give Israel 100 warplanes. They look back with nostalgia on the days when the Egyptian rulers used to claim that they were capable of crushing Israel and the United States would rush to give Israel $1 billion in aid. They say that Israel has lost as a result of the peace initiative more than it lost as a result of the October war.

President Carter believes that Menahem Begin will be more flexible than before during his visit to the United States next month. Those close to Carter are optimistic that Israel now sees the dangers of persisting with its obstinate policy which has brought criticism upon it from the whole world, particularly from the United States. All attempts to blackmail and threaten Carter by the Zionist associations have failed. A campaign has been launched charging that the Arabs are buying off his friends and those close to him. The Zionists claim that rich Saudis and gulf people have bought the bank shares owned by Bert Lance, Carter's former economic adviser and his close friend, in order to save him from bankruptcy and that this is the secret behind Carter's support for the Arabs.

In the coming days we must anticipate even more violent campaigns against Carter in an attempt to make him change his course or, at least, move slower than he is doing now. In the meantime, some financial quarters are criticizing Carter because he is not bringing sufficient pressure to bear on Israel and is not moving swiftly enough. They believe that such a stand imperils the dollar.

However, we must not be content with this success. We must expect withering campaigns and a fierce propaganda war. To resist this we must continue to march with the same firm steps and redouble our efforts to win over the American people.

We must not be shaken by the war of lies that will be waged against us, and at the same time we must realize that one of the most important reasons for our new, bright image in the world is that the era of dictatorship in our country has come to an end and that the era of democracy has begun. Free people win the respect of the world while enslaved peoples arouse its sympathy.

We must preserve the bright image of an Egypt that believes in peace because this image is our path to prosperity.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN DENIES AL-QAYSUNI HAS RESIGNED

NC192144Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] An official spokesman has denied press reports that Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, had resigned. The spokesman said that Dr al-Qaysuni was very ill when he left Cairo for the United States for treatment and that he did not resign.

FRG AMBASSADOR COMPLETES TOUR; NEW ENVOY NOMINATED

NC192006Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today held a farewell meeting with FRG Ambassador to Egypt Hans Georg Steltzer on the conclusion of Steltzer's assignment as ambassador to Egypt. During the meeting the two reviewed the latest developments in the current situation in the Middle East as well as relations between the two countries.

The Federal Republic of Germany has nominated Dr Wolfgang (Perenz) as new FRG ambassador to Egypt.

PAPER HAILS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY WITH SOVIETS

LD141614Y Baghdad TARIQ ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Apr 78 pp 1, 7 LD

[Editorial: "On the Sixth Anniversary of the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Treaty: Let Friendship Be Consolidated and Cooperation Be Strengthened"]

[Text] Today is the sixth anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union. The treaty, which launched a new era of advanced, strong relations between the two countries, crowned the success of many years of traditional friendship and cooperation and made a substantial contribution to the strengthening of Arab-Soviet friendship.

Iraq's progressive stand and effective contribution to the struggle against imperialism, its support for national liberation movements, and its positive policy in its alliances--all these have contributed to the strengthening of relations between the two sides on the basis of the principle of cooperation, equality, respect for national sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, and the struggle together against imperialism and colonialism.

The Soviet Union has stood and always stands on the side of the Arab national liberation movement in its struggle for national independence and liberation from colonialism and domination.

During its struggle against colonialist powers, particularly in the fifties, the Arab national liberation movement saw several aspects of such support and backing. This support and backing did not stop after the liberation of many Arab countries, but rather increased and became more comprehensive. It received the appreciation of the liberated Arab countries, contributed to deepening their struggle against colonialism, and strengthened the liberation trend hostile to imperialism.

In addition to political and military support, the Soviet Union gave extensive aid to the economic building of these liberated countries.

This extensive aid was particularly evident in the relations between our country and the Soviet Union following the 14 July 1948 Revolution. It was embodied in many agreements for economic, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation, as well as in other fields of cooperation between the two sides. Through its aid and loans the Soviet Union has contributed to many major projects in the industrial, agricultural, transportation and other fields. The Soviet Union has sent thousands of experts to participate in building our national economy and undertook the training of hundreds of Iraqi cadres in various fields and specializations.

The relations between our two countries entered an advanced stage following the 17 July Revolution under the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party's leadership and were further entrenched as a result of the identity of views between Iraq and the Soviet Union on many important international issues. The development in relations was reflected in the hundreds of economic projects which have been implemented or are underway in this country with the help of Soviet economic and technical aid.

Reference cannot be made to the extensive relations without pointing to the gigantic projects that have been completed through the joint work of Iraqi and Soviet workers, especially the Ar-Rumaylah oilfield, which marked the beginning of national oil production free from exploitation by capitalist monopolies and enhanced the national creative capabilities, the Ath-Tharthar Canal project, as well as many other industrial projects.

Cooperation between the two countries has also had a beneficial effect on the development and increase of trade, as well as on expanding the utilization of the many existing and potential energy sources in the service of strengthening relations between the two countries.

The atmosphere of sincere friendship that distinguishes Iraqi-Soviet relations provides all the bases for their future development in the interest of both peoples, their joint struggle against imperialism, and for the sake of peace and social progress.

Iraq and all the progressive Arab countries believe that the strengthening of their relations with the Soviet Union, the well-proven friend of the Arab national liberation movement, is necessary in the present difficult conditions through which the Arab area is passing. Imperialism, Zionism and reaction are trying to strike at the accomplishments and gains achieved by the Arab national liberation movement, halt the progress of liberation struggle and social progress in the area, and impose capitulationist settlements preparatory to liquidating the Palestine problem and their just and legitimate struggle for their national rights.

There is no doubt that the consolidation of friendship and strengthening of cooperation and ties of joint struggle against imperialism and for the sake of social progress is the strong basis for further achievements on the path to building a bright future for our people. This basis has been proven and tested more than once and has shown that the Soviet Union is, and always has been, the sincere and loyal friend of our people.

BA'TH OFFICIAL MEETS WITH AFRICAN PARTY DELEGATION

JN161917Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 April--Na'im Haddad, member of the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party and secretary general of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front, met here this evening with (Polatro Libalu), deputy chairman of the African National Congress Party. During the meeting Haddad stressed the Ba'th Party's support for the struggle of the African peoples against imperialism and for their fight to end all kinds of colonialist and racist domination. Haddad said: Our position is dictated by the positions of these nations toward the fateful Arab issues, the foremost of which is the Palestine cause.

Haddad pointed out the connection between the struggle waged by the African people--particularly those in South Africa--on the one hand, and the struggle of the Arab people, on the other. He said this connection is fateful and is aimed at terminating the racist regimes in Africa and the Zionist entity in the occupied territories.

Haddad stressed the importance of the unity of struggle among the progressive forces and fronts in Africa to increase their revolutionary struggle, terminate the racist-fascist regime in South Africa and to liberate themselves from the economic domination which is exploiting their wealth in the interests of U.S. imperialism.

The members of the delegation expressed their appreciation over being able to visit Iraq and stressed that this was an opportunity for them to acquaint themselves with the revolutionary experiment in Iraq.

During the meeting the members of the delegation explained the stages of the struggle that has been waged by the African National Congress Party since its inception 19 years ago. They expressed their appreciation for Iraq's support for their party which helps enable it to continue the struggle and to terminate the fascist ruling clique.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER ENDS VISIT, LEAVES BAGHDAD

JN191430Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 April--His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, left Baghdad this afternoon following a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and defense minister.

During his visit His Highness Prince Sultan was received by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, RCC vice chairman. The Saudi prince stated that his meeting with President al-Bakr was constructive and purposeful and was pervaded by an atmosphere of sincere brotherhood. The visit is a continuation of the bonds of close cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, he added. He said that the viewpoints exchanged during the meeting were sincere and frank regarding everything that serves the Iraqi people and the Arab nation.

In reference to his meeting with Saddam Husayn, Prince Sultan said that it dealt with cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Referring to his discussions with Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, RCC member and defense minister, Prince Sultan said: We discussed a number of issues which serve the Arab nation in an atmosphere of cooperation and sincerity.

STATEMENT ISSUED ENDING FINNISH MINISTER'S VISIT

JN200931Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 April--Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Paavo Vayrynen and his delegation left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 4-day official visit to Iraq. During his stay in Iraq, which was his first, Vayrynen had talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and several Iraqi ministers and officials on the means to develop relations between the two countries and to expand the scope of trade and economic cooperation. They also discussed the current international situation.

During his visit, Vayrynen also delivered a letter from Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa to Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn.

A press statement issued here today on the talks the Finnish Minister had during his visit said that the Finnish foreign minister's visit to Iraq was a friendly one. The statement adds that the talks centered on the international situation and bilateral relations. The statement adds that the Iraqi and Finnish foreign ministers exchanged views on the questions of disarmament, international detente, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the new economic order, the situation in Africa and the Palestine issue.

Dr Hammadi explained Iraq's views on the Palestine issue, stressing the need for the Palestinian Arab people to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to return home and to exercise self-determination. He also stressed the need for the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied Arab areas and southern Lebanon.

The press statement says that Iraq has expressed its appreciation for Finland's stand on the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the occupied Arab areas.

Regarding bilateral relations, the press statement affirmed the satisfaction of the two sides with the work of the joint Iraqi-Finnish committee.

The two ministers discussed the prospects for expanding and strengthening bilateral relations in various fields to serve the joint interests of the two countries.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has accepted an invitation to visit Finland. The invitation was extended by Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Prior to his departure, the Finnish foreign affairs minister said that his visit to Iraq was useful. He said he had a friendly exchange of views with Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and Iraqi officials. He added that Iraqi-Finnish relations are developing in a quick and positive manner, not only on the trade level, but on the level of economic cooperation as well. He explained that during the talks, special attention was given to the question of transferring Finnish technology and equipment to Iraq. It was decided that Finland will train Iraqi technical cadres. He also said that he had a useful exchange of views with the ministers of housing and reconstruction, planning, industry, trade and oil on the scientific expansion of economic cooperation between the two countries. Special attention was given to economic projects, he said.

Vayrynen said that Finland's stand on the Palestine issue rests on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab areas and respect for the right of the Palestinians to determine their own future. He said that his country strongly opposes the establishment of settlements in Sinai and the occupied areas.

Vayrynen added that he and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi also exchanged views on the European situation, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the question of disarmament. He pointed out that he has extended an invitation to Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi to visit Finland.

Concluding his statement, Vayrnen said that he is carrying back good impressions of Iraq. He said: "I was very impressed with the efforts being made by the Iraqi Government and people in their struggle for the progress and development of this great country.

BRIEFS

GREEK ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES--Baghdad, 19 April--A Greek economic delegation under (Folis), director general of the Ministry of Commerce, arrived in Baghdad today for a visit to Iraq which will last several days. (Folis) said the aim of his visit is to complete the talks which took place in Athens last January in the meeting of the joint Iraqi-Greek committee--meetings which led to the signing of the joint minutes of the trade and economic agreement between the two countries. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN]

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS NAMED

JN192220Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The following royal decree was issued today approving the appointment of the members of the National Consultative Council:

We, King Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, after taking cognizance of Article 3, A of No 17 of the 1978 law pertaining to the National Consultative Council, and in accordance with the recommendation of the prime minister, decree the following:

The following shall be appointed as members of the National Consultative Council effective 20 April 1978:

His Excellency Ahmad al-Lawzi, Ahmad Mahmud at-Tarawinah, Wasfi Mirza, 'Abdallah ar-Rimawi, 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, Kamal ad-Dajjani, Dr Khalil as-Salim, Radi al-'Abdallah, 'Abd al-Majid Hijazi, Engineer Ja'far ash-Shami, Dr Ya'qub Abu Ghawsh, 'Abd al-Majid Shuraydah, Dr Ishaq al-Farhan, Muhammad al-Farhan al-'Ubaydat, Engineer Ahmad ash-Shawbaki, Marwan al-Humud, Dr Muhammad 'Udub az-Zibin, Sulayman 'Arar, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Rawabidah, Engineer 'Ali Suhaymat, Nayif al-Khurayshah, Hammad al-Fawwaz, Sulayman al-Qudat, Jum'ah Hammad, Jawdat al-Mihaysin, 'Attalah al-Kabariti, Khalid al-Fayyad, 'Ali al-Bashir, Na'im at-Tall, Sulayman Rutaymah, Salim Binjab, Nayif as-Sa'd, Sa'id al-Ghazzawi, Mamduh as-Sarayrah, Muhammad 'Ali Budayr, Walid 'Asfur, Dr Zuhayr Malhas, Amin Shuqayr, Dr Carlos Di'mis, Mahmud ash-Sharif, Dr Jamal ash-Sha'ir, Dr Muwaffaq al-Fawwaz, Mrs In'am al-Mufti, Tahir Hikmat, Hayil Abu Burayz, Shafiq az-Zawayidah, Shams ad-Din 'Uthman Tash, Mrs Widad Bulus, Sultan Majid al-'Adwan, 'Abdallah Aburushaydah, Hammad 'Ali al-Ma'ayitah, Dr 'Isa al-Qusus, Jawdat as-Suqur, Khalaf Abu Numayr, Sami Hasan Mansur, Muhammad Yunis al-'Izzah, Muhammad Khalil Hattab, Mrs Na'ilah ar-Rashdan, Jamal 'Abd al-Karim Abu Baqar and Dr Muhammad Ahmad Rabi'.

Another royal decree was issued appointing Ahmad al-Lawzi as president of the National Consultative Council effective 20 April 1978.

AKBAR AL-USBU' CALLS FOR FIRM U.S. STAND ON ISRAEL

JN200612Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Speaking about Alfred Atherton's new tour of the Middle East, AKHBAR AL-USBU' says: Alfred Atherton will begin another tour of the Middle East amid reports that President Carter is going to launch another initiative to settle the Middle East crisis. Thus, the crisis returns to the game of initiatives and of kicking the ball by the various parties, while Israel will be the only one to gain, because it will be the one to kick the ball in the direction that suits it. After being convinced of the intransigence of the Israelis, President Carter remains unable to take a genuine step in a positive direction. Precedents have convinced us that initiatives are not the important point. What is important is the Israeli stand, which is becoming more intransigent and obstinate, judging by the daily steps it takes to expand, settle the land and consolidate its occupation. What we want from Washington is not initiatives or proposals but a firm and tough stand which will have an effect on Israeli inflexibility, turning it into flexibility and directing it toward a settlement of the dispute. Regardless of what has been said, the United States is capable of exerting real material, military and political pressure on Israel. We and the U.S. policymakers must not be deceived by Israel's allegations that it can survive without the enormous U.S. aid and support.

Since everything is so clear, we do not want an initiative from President Carter but a firm, tough and strong stand. Unless the master of the White House adopts tangible steps compelling Israel to withdraw and respond to peace efforts, doubts will continue to surround the U.S. efforts and President Carter's ability to safeguard U.S. interests in the Middle East.

HASAN IBRAHIM OUTLINES ARAB SOLIDARITY POLICY

JN182136Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Jordan is working with the various Arab parties to restore Arab solidarity with the aim of strengthening intrinsic Arab power and cooperation in all fields. In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Amman, Ibrahim said that Jordan has drawn up a comprehensive plan and a formula for Arab cooperation in the political, economic and information spheres within the framework of the action program presented to the Arab kings and leaders. The minister of state for foreign affairs added that Jordan has sensed a response and an appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's call to convene an Arab summit conference and for the proposed action program to act as a basis for the discussions at the conference.

Ibrahim pointed out that Jordan will participate in the Arab solidarity committee at the invitation of the Sudanese president to discuss the means agreed on by the committee to remove Arab differences. He said that the Jordanian stand regarding current Arab issues takes into consideration the efforts being exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. It also takes into consideration that Israel's stand remains unchanged concerning the establishment of a just peace in the area based on total withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave Amman for Khartoum on Friday to attend the meetings of the Arab solidarity committee which will be held there on Saturday under Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER DELIVERS MESSAGE TO HUSAYN

JN172009Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, at Al-Hashimiyah Palace this afternoon. As-Sabah conveyed a message to his majesty from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, related to the current Arab situation and the efforts being exerted to unify the Arab ranks. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of state for foreign affairs and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

Prior to his departure from Amman this evening, His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stated that his visit to Jordan was aimed at bolstering Arab solidarity. He added that he had conveyed a message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, to His Majesty King Husayn on coordinating the Arab efforts in order to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation. He further said that his visit is a continuation of what was begun by his majesty through his call for an Arab summit conference. He then said that the viewpoints of his majesty the king and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad are identical, especially regarding these difficult circumstances through which our nation is passing. It will be recalled that His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah visited Syria today and delivered a similar message to the Syrian president. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah was seen off by 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman.

SARKIS ADDRESSES CABINET BEFORE ITS RESIGNATION

NC191403Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 1050 His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis presided over the cabinet's weekly meeting, with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Hoss and the ministers attending.

The session lasted until 1350, after which the following official information was released: At the outset of the session, his excellency the president said: While the officials on the various levels were busily dressing the wounds of the south, fate surprised us with a new test. The tragedy of the past few days came at a time while utmost efforts were being exerted to tackle all the aspects of the situation in Lebanon.

When we look at the destruction and at what is more important than destruction--by this we mean the human victims by whose loss we are bereaved--we wonder every time: In whose interest are these things that are happening? The immediate answer comes quickly to our mind: definitely not in Lebanon's interest.

His excellency the president added: This is not the first time Lebanon has been tested throughout its long history. I have great confidence that the Lebanese will not face up to their responsibility and will face reality with the courage and self-confidence it requires.

In view of my confidence in the good sense of the Lebanese, I will proceed to place things in their true perspective, using the language of frankness, reality and responsibility.

His excellency the president explained: When the clashes occurred between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, the officials in charge of security made intensified attempts to halt these clashes. However, the situation became more tense, and therefore it was feared that in view of this situation tension, as well as the clashes, would spread to other areas. Thus, the security situation would gravely deteriorate on a large and dangerous scale in the country to return us to the situation in which we found ourselves in 1975 and 1976.

It was not natural, nor possible, nor reasonable for the deterrent forces to adopt the attitude of a spectator or to disregard what was happening. Therefore, it was inevitable to intervene and adopt a quick political decision to halt the fighting. The deterrent forces were assigned to implement the decision. It is natural to say that if we had alternative useful means, we would not have hesitated to use them.

His excellency the president added: Therefore, the military officials drew up a plan to intervene. The plan provided for the deployment of deterrent forces between the two combatant areas. Despite the pressing situation that required very swift action to implement the plan, they were eager to implement the plan through understanding and agreement with the parties concerned.

It was natural for the military to implement the plan. They began to deploy themselves according to the plan. But as they were implementing the plan, a friction occurred which developed into a clash that soon exacerbated. Despite this, the negotiations continued in order to reach an understanding. Regrettably, however, whenever a step was taken toward the desired objective, something happened that disturbed the negotiations. Undisciplined elements opened fire. Both parties complained of these elements.

As a result of the actions of these elements, the fighting escalated. This led to loss of confidence and to a deterioration in the situation.

Finally, thanks to the sincere efforts that were exerted, we were able to put an end to the tragedy. As a result of the painful clashes, a number of innocent victims of the security forces and civilians fell and a number of others sustained various injuries. Heavy losses in property were also sustained.

The government will undertake to have the injured treated and to aid those who have been affected and to determine who is responsible.

While we share the sufferings of the Lebanese for everything that has happened, we state that the evil hands that caused the tragedy and other evils are still trying to sow discord among us. Such a situation and the delicacy of the circumstances make it incumbent upon us to unite the ranks in order to overcome the difficulties, surmount obstacles and confront the tendentious subversive rumors so that our good people will not be deceived by them. Thus, we will create a suitable atmosphere for tranquillity to prevail. In our quest of this objective, we will spare no effort or sacrifice which duty or the sublime national interests may dictate.

His excellency the president concluded his speech by saying: We are continuing our persistent efforts to overcome our tragedy and promote all the country's utilities with a belief unshaken by difficulties, because this belief stems from our faith in Lebanon.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON RESIGNATION

NC191240Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss's cabinet has submitted its resignation to the president of the republic, who accepted it and asked the resigned cabinet to act as a caretaker cabinet until a new cabinet is formed. This came at the end of the cabinet meeting at 1345 today, when Minister Dr Ibrahim Shu'aytu announced that the cabinet had submitted its resignation in order to give the politicians the opportunity to shoulder their responsibility at this difficult time. We hope they will form a cabinet that can shoulder this responsibility.

What did the ministers say after the resignation? The prime minister refused to make any statement. Minister Dr Salah Salman said: I shall go back to practice medicine. Minister As'ad Rizq said: This is the only day on which I will not say anything. Minister Rufayil said: The cabinet's resignation came as a result of a meeting held in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday. There was a great deal of relaxation at the political level, making it possible to submit the resignation.

We have just learned that a telephone contact took place between the president of the republic and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. This is traditional in the wake of the resignation of the cabinet.

Resignation; President's Reply

NC191429Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Following the cabinet session today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss tendered the government's resignation to his excellency the president of the republic and handed him the following letter of resignation:

His excellency the president of the republic: Our government assumed power following painful problems to tackle the enormous problems which led to the explosion of the incidents and also the problems resulting from these incidents. We feel that our government very faithfully assumed the responsibility assigned to it. We also feel that it carried out its duties in the best manner under the circumstances that dominated the political and security atmospheres and in the face of the difficulties it was confronted with in more than one field in the past period. However, we believe today that the public interest dictates that an opportunity be given to others to participate in taking on the responsibilities and confronting the events of the upcoming phase.

In view of the fact that we consider that the recent political developments, particularly the positive developments which were the outcome of yesterday's parliamentary consultations, herald the restoration of rapprochement among the various Lebanese factions and whereas we consider that it is possible to crystallize and strengthen this rapprochement through the formation of a new government, we have the honor of submitting the resignation of our government to Your Excellency, thanking you for the precious confidence you bestowed on us and for the wise directions you gave us throughout our term in office. We wish you success in cooperating with all the sincere people in this dear country to continue the march of security, peace, understanding, building and reconstruction. This is the march to which you have devoted yourself and to which our government has given all it could. May God preserve Lebanon as a homeland for unity, love, security, dignity and prosperity.

Beirut, 19 April 1978. [Signed] Sincerely, Salim al-Fuss

His excellency answered the letter, saying: I wish to express my appreciation of the prime minister and the ministers for the efforts they exerted throughout the period that the government assumed the responsibilities of rule under delicate circumstances. I further want to praise the fruitful actions carried out by the government in the various fields, despite the circumstances through which it has passed.

His excellency the president added: We are passing through a fateful stage. I hope that this stage will prompt everyone to unite and collaborate to carry out their duty toward this homeland in the best manner.

After this, his excellency the president of the republic announced his acceptance of the government's resignation. He asked the prime minister and cabinet members to continue to discharge their duties until a new cabinet is formed.

Al-Jumayyil Comments

NC192057Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on the Lebanese Government's resignation, [Phalangist Party leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: I believe that any government that comes to power will not be able to govern if it has no authority or a security force capable of controlling the current situation.

Asked if a government of leaders would solve the crisis, Al-Jumayyil replied: What can even a government of leaders do if it does not have authority and a security force, as long as the instruments of government are absent.

Asked what the solution is, he replied: The solution can be achieved through a government that comes to power through agreement among us--among the Lebanese. Regrettably, such an agreement has not been achieved yet.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil was asked if he expects an agreement to be reached as a result of the current parliamentary meetings. He replied: I frankly say that if no agreement is reached, this will mean a catastrophe for Lebanon and the Arabs because we will be heading for partition. I say this very frankly and regretfully.

SARKIS BEGINS CONSULTATIONS TO FORM NEW CABINET

NC191828Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] His excellency the president of the republic, Ilyas Sarkis, this evening began consultations to form a new cabinet. The president met with Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, at 1800 today. He will resume his consultations on Thursday.

SARKIS RECEIVES LETTER FROM KING HUSAYN

JN200934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 April--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis today received a letter from Jordan's King Husayn. The letter was delivered by the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut, Hisham al-Muhaysin, when President Sarkis received him this morning. The Jordanian diplomat said that the letter is related to Jordan's call for the convening of an Arab summit conference and the proposed agenda for the summit.

'ARAFAT, PLO OFFICIALS RECEIVED BY AL-HUSS

NC192232Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 2100 Wednesday, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who was accompanied by Zuhayr Muhsin, [chief of the PLO Military Department], Abu Jihad, Abu al-Walid and Abu Hasan. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

Tour Joint Forces' Positions

JN191536Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar yesterday inspected the positions of the joint forces in the 'Urqub area on Mount Hermon and in southern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar was accompanied on this tour by brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces, and by Abu al-Adib, member of the Fatah Central Committee. The radio correspondent has learned that the brother commander in chief held a meeting with the military cadres and discussed the military situation with them.

VOICE OF LEBANON: ARAB ARMY FORMING

NC200637Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received from An-Nabatiyah last night, armed Palestinians have attacked the An-Nabatiyah army barracks. They, and the communists and recruits who have recently come to the area, call themselves the Arab army of Lebanon. Using loudspeakers, some factions in certain quarters of the capital have called for the formation of such an army to spread confusion.

U.S. DELEGATION MEETS WITH GENERAL KHURI

NC191248Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] The U.S. military delegation ended its mission in Lebanon today by attending a final working meeting held at the meeting hall in the army command headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and in the presence of the chief of the general staff and his assistants. The discussions at this meeting centered on the preparation of a final evaluation of the military and technical aid required to rebuild the army.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN SOUTH

NC190943Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 19 April--Informed Palestinian sources have stated that a number of Palestinians planning chaotic actions were arrested in southern Lebanon 2 days ago. Quoting informed Palestinian sources, the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR says today that these elements came from Iraq, that they intended to create problems and that they were consequently arrested. The paper adds that these elements are now detained in the south.

VOICE OF LEBANON: 3 SYRIAN SOLDIERS KILLED

NC181314Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A few incidents and attacks took place in an area near the Sabra quarter in Beirut last night. The dead bodies of three members of the Syrian deterrent forces were found inside a white Austin car at 0200 today. It is believed that persons manning an armed barricade committed this crime in the area which is frequented by armed men belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Al-Murabitun and the 'Isam al-'Arab group.

It has also been reported that an American national was beaten up in Qatqat quarter. It is reported that Kafr Zabad in Zahlah district that a mine exploded in a car, killing its owner.

The customs officials in Beirut International Airport have arrested two Indian nationals who were in possession of two handgrenades and a quantity of TNT explosives. They have been referred to the investigation authorities.

Denial Issued

NC181722Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 78 NC

[Text] We have received the following from the Arab deterrent forces command:

One of the private radio stations reported in its newscast today that the dead bodies of three members of the Syrian forces serving with the Arab deterrent forces were discovered this morning in the Sabra area.

This report is completely false.

LIBYA

COLONEL AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES JORDANIAN DELEGATION

LD191530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 19, JANA--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution, received yesterday the Jordanian people's delegation which is on a visit to Jamahiriyah. The delegation expressed, during the meeting, their admiration for and appreciation of the giant steps taken by the great Fatah revolution in the national and international spheres.

The Jordanian delegation also expressed their admiration for the great achievements made in the land of the Jamahiriyah and of the intensive activity that is going on here for the purpose of achieving happiness and progress for the Libyan Arab people and the whole of the Arab nation.

AT-TURAYKI, SEKOU TOURE ADDRESS TRIPOLI FESTIVAL

LD191550Y Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, April 19, Tripoli--President Sekou Toure of Guinea attended last night a huge popular festival held at the people's hall in Tripoli.

Dr. 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, introduced the African revolutionary leader, praising his efforts in the African Continent. He said:

"In 1958, he rejected colonialism, and rejected Guinea's 'independence' as a donation from the colonialists, but achieved his country's independence through struggle and blood. He was a leader of his people and the Continent of Africa.

"President Sekou Toure founded with the late leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and the late President Nkrumah, the Organisation of African Unity. They founded this organisation when most of the African countries were under French and Portuguese colonialism. The organisation played its role in liberating the African Continent. Before the setting up of this organisation, there was not more than 20 independent African countries. Today there are 49."

He referred to the welcome extended by the leader of the revolution in the name of the people of the Jamahiriyah, to the Guinean militant struggling leader, the day before yesterday.

Dr. at-Turayki went on to say:

"The people of the Jamahiriyah cherish the Guinean president, the Guinean people and the Guinean revolution." He added: "The Guinean people, revolution and leader supported right from the beginning the Great Revolution of Al-Fatah of September, the revolution which is now playing the main and most important role in the African struggle for economic, political and ideological liberation."

Dr. at-Turayki affirmed that the presence of President Sekou Toure, who is one of the most distinguished leaders of the African revolution, in the Jamahiriyah, proved the leading role played by the Great Revolution of Al-Fatah of September, under the revolutionary leadership of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Guinean President Sekou Toure made a detailed speech in which he praised the Great Al-Fatah Revolution and its leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who placed the power, the wealth and the arms in the hands of the people....

He said: "It is the good fortune of this people that God has offered them a leader who is devoted to his people, a leader of a revolution which is different from other revolutions. Many revolutions had overthrown kings and treacherous regimes, but they captured the positions of power and forgot and exploited the people. But the leadership of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution worked with devotion to make the great achievements in the interests of the people, as it has built many industrial and housing projects as well as building farms, schools and hospitals everywhere. This was crowned by handing power, wealth and arms to the people."

He affirmed that "Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is not only the leader of Al-Fatah revolution but the leader of the whole of Africa, for he supports all the causes of justice and freedom in this continent."

The Guinean President urged the Libyan Arab people to be vigilant towards the imperialist plots against them and their great revolution which stands strongly by the struggling peoples for their political, economic and social liberation, all over the world.

He called on the Libyan Arab people to continue their revolution and to exert more efforts and make more sacrifices in order to affirm the historic march which was started by the leader of the great Al-Fatah revolution, because the people of the Jamahiriyah are the only people in the world who rule themselves by themselves.

He affirmed that "the Libyan Arab people must protect their gigantic revolutionary achievements" and said "this generation which witnessed the rise of the revolution must carry forward these achievements to the future generations."

He added "the Libyan Arab people must make the revolution a part of their daily practice because the Libyan revolution is a revolution of justice and its targets will be achieved, and this is a certainty."

The Guinean President referred to the brotherly and solid relationship between the Jamahiriyah and Guinea by saying: "We are certain that our common plans will be crowned with success in the interest of the two brotherly peoples, because we all work on the premises of defending justice and the oppressed in the world." The Guinean president stressed in his speech the solidarity between the Guinean people and the Libyan Arab people. He said: "This solidarity is based on the fact that we have a common goal and a common belief, since we all believe in the Holy Koran brought to us by the Almighty God." He added that "despite the long distance between the two countries, the Guinean people stand firmly by the Libyan Arab people and in solidarity with their struggle."

Al-Qadhdhafi, Toure Hold Talks

LD191945Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Official talks between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Guinea began this evening at the people's palace in Tripoli. The Libyan Arab side is led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhadhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, while the Guinea side is led by Ahmad Sekou Toure, leader of the Guinea revolution, general secretary of the Guinean Democratic Party and president of the republic. The Libyan Arab side to the talks includes Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, and the brother secretaries of agriculture, industries, planning and foreign affairs. The Guinean delegation includes Lansana Beavogui, prime minister, speaker of the National Assembly, and the ministers of social affairs, justice, information, planning, cooperation and banking.

WPC CHAIRMAN CHANDRA CONFERS WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS

LD150142Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 14 Apr 78 LD

[Text] A press statement was released yesterday evening at the end of the talks which took place in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah between the WPC, headed by Romesh Chandra, chairman, and the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab people's conference, headed by brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Secretariat. The two sides exchanged views on issues and matters of interest to the nationalist, progressive and peace-loving forces in the world, particularly the situations in the Arab area and Africa.

The WPC members acquainted themselves with the activity of the Permanent Secretariat and the conferences, which stem from the Arab people's conference, and the energetic efforts of the Permanent Secretariat to implement its resolutions, especially the establishment of a progressive Arab front, laying down the necessary plans to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy, and mobilizing the forces of Arab public opinion to abort those plans and reply to all attempts aimed against the struggle of the Arab nation.

WPC Chairman Chandra affirmed the WPC's support for these efforts, which are aimed at strengthening peace based on justice and which oppose the aggressive plans against the Arab area. Mr Chandra gave some information on WPC activity in regard to matters concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict. He affirmed the WPC's complete and continuing support for efforts to permit the Palestinian Arab people to recover their national rights and uphold their right to self-determination and the WPC's support for all efforts aimed at liberating the occupied Arab territory. He condemned the expansionist policy of the Zionist enemy, affirming in the name of the WPC the need for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon. Romesh Chandra once again affirmed that the WPC has always supported efforts to unite all Arab forces struggling against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The two sides agreed on the need to continue contacts between the two sides to draw up a program for joint cooperation for the benefit of mankind.

Brother Ahmad ash-Shahhati, the secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Organization in the Mediterranean, also met with Romesh Chandra. Questions of cooperation between the organization and the WPC were discussed.

MOROCCO

MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETS

LD191444Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] This morning His Majesty King Hassan II chaired at the royal palace in Fez the second meeting of the Moroccan-Mauritanian joint defense council, following the working sessions which the council held after his majesty had chaired the council's first meeting yesterday.

The meeting was attended by some members of the Moroccan and Mauritanian governments, by his majesty's adviser and by others.

After the meeting, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Mouknass expressed in a statement to the radio his deep satisfaction with the very positive results of the meeting of the Moroccan-Mauritanian joint defense higher committee.

Communique Issued

LD192232Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] In Fez, the work of the supreme council for joint Moroccan-Mauritanian defense, which was chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, has ended. A joint communique has been issued and here is the text:

In accordance with the requirements of the agreement on joint cooperation in the field of defense signed in Nouakchott on the 13 May 1977 between Mauritania and Morocco, and in the context of the fraternal relations between His Excellency President Moktar Ould Daddah and His Majesty King Hassan, the supreme defense council met in Fez on 18 and 19 April 1978 under the presidency of His Majesty King Hassan II.

The Mauritanian delegation was led by Ould Mouknass, foreign minister, and included Mohameden Ould Babbah, minister of national defense; Sakho Mamadou, interior minister; Sidi Mohammad Ould Abderrahmane, ambassador of Mauritania in Morocco; Col Mustafa Ould Muhammad Salek, commander in chief of the national army; Col Bayya Ould [name indistinct] from the army staff and senior officers of the Supreme Command of the Mauritanian forces.

On the Moroccan side the following took part: Ahmed Osman, prime minister; M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mahjoubi Aherdan, minister of state in charge of posts, telegraph and telephones; Mohamed Benhima, minister of state in charge of the interior; Gen Moulay Alaoui, minister of the royal household; M'hamed Douiri, minister of equipment and national production; Mustapha Faris, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Mohamed Nasser, minister of transport; Abdelkamel Raghaye, minister of commerce and industry; Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mineral resources; Basri Driss, secretary of state for the interior; Gen Driss Benaissa, inspector general of the royal armed forces; Maj Col Ahmed Dlimi, secretary general of the supreme defense council; Col Mohamed [name indistinct], secretary general of the National Defense Administration; Col (Abdelaziz) ibn Nani), chief of staff for advanced war of the royal armed forces; Mohamed Bisbis, his majesty's ambassador in Mauritania, and senior officers of the general staff of the of the royal armed forces.

After the council had begun a deep analysis of the situation in the region and carried out a comprehensive evaluation of the action exercised within the context of the joint defense agreement, both sides expressed satisfaction at the spirit of joint understanding which allowed positive results to be reached. The Mauritanian side recorded its complete satisfaction at the good conduct and exemplary behavior of the officers and the soldiers of the royal armed forces stationed in Mauritania. It also expressed gratitude to King Hassan II, his government and the Moroccan people for the active solidarity with Mauritania in the defense of its sovereignty and integrity.

Both sides expressed their firm determination to make all efforts to confront any threat to their national defense and they declared once again that any aggression directed at any of them is considered an aggression on the other side. Both sides confirmed their joint desire to work by all means for the return of peace and the consolidation of the African fraternity in this part of the African west in accordance with the charter of the OAU, within the framework of respect for their sovereignty and the integrity of their national territories.

Both sides praised the atmosphere of understanding which prevailed during meetings of the supreme defense council and both sides have defined the necessary measures to make their cooperation grow stronger and achieve greater effectiveness. Both sides believe that solidarity between their peoples will become consolidated following the decisions taken during this session and express their hope that the results which were reached will form a source from which the African will seek inspiration to consolidate and strengthen African solidarity and fraternity.

Fez, 19 April, 1978

SUDAN

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD TO MEET WITH NUMAYRI

LD192110Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Arab solidarity committee will hold its first meeting on Saturday in Khartoum under the chairmanship of leader president Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The meeting will be attended by the foreign ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the YAR and Jordan.

Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, will arrive in Khartoum on Friday to meet President Numayri in his capacity as chairman of the committee. He will discuss preparations for the meeting and report on his tour to a number of Arab states with the object of preparing the correct atmosphere for convening an Arab summit conference.

Mahmud Riyad said that his forthcoming tour of the Arab capitals will complement the tour he made 2 weeks ago. The coming tour [words indistinct], in addition to the program of moves to be decided upon by the solidarity committee during its meeting in Khartoum this Saturday under the chairmanship of President Ja'far Numayri. The secretary general emphasized that the most important task to be carried out by the (?solidarity committee) will center on preparing the right climate for consolidating the spirit of reciprocal [word indistinct] among the Arab states. He said the Arab nation is capable of overcoming its differences [words indistinct]. He concluded his statement by affirming that the exertion of sincere efforts is a vital matter for the protection of [words indistinct].

WEIZMAN REPORTS ON IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM S. LEBANON

TA191634Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The IDF will withdraw to a 10-km-wide strip in southern Lebanon by 5 May. We will then wait until the increased UN force is deployed in the area. This was stated by Defense Minister Weizman to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Our correspondent Zevi Lidar learned that according to Weizman, there is a good chance that the area will remain clear of terrorists. This is in the wake of the promises of the UN secretary general to increase the UN force to 6,000 soldiers and also in the wake of the UN resolution to prevent the entry of terrorists into the region. The defense minister pointed out that the UN soldiers have satisfactorily succeeded in preventing the entry of several armed terrorists over the last few days. According to Mr Weizman, the IDF operation in southern Lebanon justified itself and attained its goal.

The defense minister said that in the talks with Waldheim the subject of the soldier captured by the terrorists was raised. The UN people said that the soldier was slightly wounded. According to them, the four soldiers who were killed were not buried and their bodies are in a hospital. In reply to a question from one of the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Mr Weizman stressed that an epidemic of pillage does not prevail among IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon. About 60 soldiers were caught and 40 of them have already been tried. Some of those tried were sentenced to imprisonment.

Further on Remarks

TA192043Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Excerpts] The defense minister said that by the end of the month the IDF will evacuate the areas which it controls in southern Lebanon except for a strip which is 10-km wide at the widest place. The IDF will then wait until the increased UN force is deployed in the region. Mr Weizman said this to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

According to what IDF soldiers have heard from UN personnel, the UN force did not have difficulty in taking control of the area evacuated by the IDF. However, there are difficulties in the Tyre region, which contains about 1,500 terrorists. In order to take control of this region, the UN units in Tyre will be reinforced with a French unit.

WEIZMAN SAID TO RENEW EFFORTS FOR CAIRO TALKS

TA200740Y Jerusalem POST in English 20 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman will renew his quest in the next few days to go back to Cairo for talks with Egyptian War Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and possibly for a meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat, according to well informed sources in Jerusalem. Weizman has been waiting for today's return to Cairo of Gen. al-Jamasi, who accompanied As-Sadat on his extensive tour of the distant southern Egyptian districts on the Red Sea, it was reported.

Weizman's projected trip to Cairo would be aimed mainly at reviving the direct contacts which eroded in recent weeks because of sharpening differences between As-Sadat and Premier Menahem Begin over the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and its implications with regard to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The defence minister's return to Cairo is not expected by Jerusalem to break the deadlock in the formal Military and Political committee talks between Egypt and Israel. Efforts towards that target are currently being accelerated by Washington, which has just launched a two-pronged initiative: dispatching special Middle East envoy Alfred Atherton to Cairo tomorrow to assess the Egyptian mood; and inviting Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to Washington next Wednesday as a prelude to a visit by Begin there later this month.

Unconfirmed reports reaching Jerusalem said that there were increased prospects that As-Sadat would also be invited to Washington about the same time Begin is there to mend the fences between the two leaders.

The U.S. wants more than the reactivation of the short-lived As-Sadat-Begin direct dialogue. The Americans want the two men to meet each other half-way, particularly over the political future of the West Bank.

The Americans have been stressing broadly that the two sides should confine their agreement to the applicability of all principles of Resolution 242 to "all fronts" and the quest for a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Begin's government so far has treated the American formula with caution, since it sees it as an explicit call for acceptance of two principles up to now opposed by Jerusalem: withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza; and acknowledgement of the right of the people there to an eventual independent entity.

The question of the political future of these administrated territories was recently described by As-Sadat to Weizman as the prime issue which will have to be solved before Egypt and Israel can make further moves towards a peace settlement.

"I would sign a treaty with Israel tomorrow if peace in the region could be accomplished without solving that issue," As-Sadat is reported to have told Weizman at their last meeting earlier this month.

But despite As-Sadat's indications that his conflict with Israel over Sinai was not an issue, Weizman might in the near future go back to Cairo to hammer out differences on the future of settlements and air bases there.

DINITZ DISCUSSES U.S. ARMS SALE TO MIDDLE EAST

TA200700Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Israel's Ambassador to Washington Simha Dinitz has denied reports that the government would prefer the proposed U.S. aircraft sales to the Middle East to go through in its package form, rather than be canceled as a whole.

In an interview with the JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY, Dinitz said Israel expects the U.S. to live up to its prior commitment to supply it with the aircraft essential to its defense. While Israel strongly opposed linking arms sales to it with those to other Middle East countries, it trusted that Israeli security concerns in this respect would be shared by the U.S. Government.

KNESSET MEMBERS SUPPORT RESERVE OFFICERS' LETTER

TA191336Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] In a public statement issued by both coalition and opposition Knesset members, open support was expressed for the initiators of the reserve officers' letter and for those who signed it.

Knesset Members Abba Eban, Yig'al Allon, Shulamit Alloni, 'Uzzi Bar-'Am, Hayka Grossman, David Golomb, Mordekhay Virshubski, Hayyim Bar-lev, Menahem Hakohen and Yosi Sarid write that the letter and the ensuing movement express genuine apprehension for the wellbeing of the state, its security and its character. The Knesset members have demanded that the cabinet declare its willingness to withdraw from all sectors and recognize the right of Palestinian Arabs--to be distinguished from the PLO--a political expression not under Israeli rule. The MK's object to the establishment of settlements with military aid in areas populated by Arabs if this is not necessitated by security requirements.

POLAND MAY IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

TA191648Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Noah Kluger, special correspondent in Poland, and Arye Zimmuqi, Jerusalem correspondent]

[Text] Lately hints as to the Polish and Hungarian heads of state's desire to improve their relations with the State of Israel have been unofficially made and have received further impetus this week against the background of the dedication of the Jewish barracks in the Auschwitz death camp.

The Israeli delegation to Warsaw and the events of the Jewish barracks are receiving unprecedented coverage by Polish media. Polish Prime Minister Henryk Jablonski yesterday received the leaders of the Israeli delegation, headed by Dr Nahum Goldman, which were Mk Gid'on Hausner and Brig Gen (Reserve) Yizhaq Arad, director of Yad Vashem. It must be noted that since diplomatic relations between Israel and Poland were severed, Poland has refused entry to allow representatives from official or semiofficial Israeli bodies.

MK Gid'on Hausner yesterday called for the resumption of the relations with Poland during the ceremony of awarding "Righteous of the Nations" medals to 14 Polish citizens.

Jewish leaders who have recently visited Poland and Hungary got the impression that the leaders of those two countries are interested in visits by Jews to their countries in an effort to improve their relations with world Jewry.

Leaders of the two countries also hinted that the time for the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel is not yet ripe since there has not been substantial progress in the peace process in the area.

It was further hinted, both in Poland and in Hungary, that obstacles in the way of Israelis who come as visitors or as participants in international conferences would be removed as long as the visitors are not official representatives.

KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY GROUP MEETS U.S. JEWS

TA191927Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee met this morning with representatives of four U.S. Jewish organizations in order to discuss the problems of Israeli information. Our correspondent Zevi Lidar reports that the Jewish leaders said that Israel's image has eroded greatly in the United States. According to them, the impression is that President as-Sadat shows generosity and a desire for peace while Israel is preoccupied with trifles and insists on details. The two chief points or problems which make information difficult are the government's position regarding Resolution 242--especially the question of territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria--and the settlement acts taking place in the course of the negotiations.

The Jewish leaders said that the U.S. administration is taking Saudi Arabia into great consideration since it buys government bonds worth billions of dollars and finances a quarter of the deficit in the U.S. budget.

CONTACTS FOR NEW POLITICAL FACTION TO REPLACE LA'AM

TA191200Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 78 p 3 TA

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Internal contacts to investigate the possibility of forming a new political body within the Likud in place of La'am have been going on in the last few days, since the threat of a split within the faction.

The HA'AREZ correspondent has learned that representatives of the two opposing groups in La'am met with the chairman of the Ahdut faction, MK Hillel Seidel, with DMC MK's and, probably, also with Labor MK's, to look into their readiness to join a new political body. It has also been learned that the possibility of several La'am members joining the Herut Movement has created tension within the movement.

Yesterday, MK Seidel reported on his contacts with Yig'al Horowitz's men on the one hand and Eli'ezer Shostak's men on the other. Seidel reported this to his faction's executive. He said that he had been approached for aid in the formation of a new front in the Likud. It has been learned that there were also contacts with DMC MK Asaf Yaguri. In reply to a question, Mr Yaguri said that he only held friendly talks intended to evaluate the situation.

Circles in the Likud have said that La'am members have also approached a number of Labor MK's, including MK 'Amos Hadar, who denied having held talks on this issue.

The threat of a split in La'am is the result of personal conflicts, but it does not interrupt the new development in the faction regarding Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's status, who, in case of changes in the political scene, will be left without the backing of any political body.

Sources in the Likud yesterday remarked that if there is a split in La'am, at most only three MK's would join the splinter group. These would be Minister Shostak and MK Ehud Olmert--both members of Herut--and possibly also MK Mashe Shamir, member of the Greater Israel Movement, who would want to strengthen MK Ge'ula Kohen's status. MK's Amnon Lin and Yig'al Kohen, who are not happy with Minister Horowitz and MK Zalman Shoval's threats of splitting, might, according to this estimation, join them and bring about the reestablishment of AM (the National List). Presumably, this political body, consisting totally of former RAFI members, would also attract a number of persons in the DMC and in the Labor Party, who would join it, led by Mr Dayan.

GREATER ISRAEL MOVEMENT PUBLISHES ANNOUNCEMENT

TA191525Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 78 p 4 TA

[Text] "The collapse of the government's political line arouses anxiety and requires reaching conclusions." This was stated in the Greater Israel Movement's executive decisions released for publication the day before yesterday.

"The desperate efforts of the prime minister and the foreign minister to find a formula which would include Security Council Resolution 242 in the Israeli plan to refer also to Judaea and Samaria reflect the collapse of the basic principles regarding Erez Yisra'el's most vital part," said the press announcement.

The announcement ends with the position that the Government of Israel "must free itself from the disastrous commitment to Security Council Resolution 242."

"The foreign minister's words on Saturday, which clearly hinted at a readiness for territorial concessions in Judaea, Samaria and the Golan--which are, as he termed them, only bargaining chips in our hands--make up a further deterioration following the concession of the Sinai and call for reaching conclusions concerning his role as the representative of the Likud government in the political arena," the announcement says.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS DENY COMPLAINTS ABOUT POLICY

TA191718Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The Union of the Foreign Correspondents in Israel says that the leak from the meeting held between several union members and Knesset members was intentional and aimed at gaining publicity. The announcement by the foreign correspondents union states that contrary to reports, no complaints against the government were made in the meeting, nor did anyone claim that the government's information policy is deficient. The foreign correspondents emphasized at the meeting that the problems they now face in their work also existed under previous governments.

BEGIN'S OFFICE DENIES SHARON'S AUTHORITY CURTAILED

TA191153Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister's office informs us that the report published this morning in HA'AREZ about the limiting of Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon's authority regarding settlements and regarding his duty as chairman of the committee on these affairs is unfounded.

The report said that the cabinet has decided to transfer authority for the establishment of new settlements in the territories to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, which is composed of all coalition representatives. A senior government source declared, according to the paper, that the decision amounts to a reduction in Minister Sharon's authority. The prime minister's office denied the report.

CABINET TO ESTABLISH LAND ACQUISITION COMPANY

TA191503Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Gid'on Eshet]

[Text] The government is planning to set up a governmental company to deal with the acquisition of land in Judaea and Samaria. Secret discussions on this matter have already been held between the ministries of Finance and Agriculture.

At these meetings it was agreed that the Ministry of Agriculture would officially bring the matter up with the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs, which is in charge of government companies.

The initiative for establishing the company is based on the following reasons:

--The difficulties which the Israel Land Administration faces in purchasing land in the West Bank. These difficulties arise from the fact that the local inhabitants, even those who are willing to sell, do not do business with a distinguished governmental body.

--The abolution of JNF involvement in the matter. Today, part of the acquisition is made by the JNF, nourished by donations mainly from the United States. The government is unhappy with this situation, partly because the donations are intended for social purposes which do not include purchasing land. The transfer of the matter to a governmental company would also prevent friction with the United States.

--Economic circles raised further speculation regarding the reasons for the establishment of the company--the concentration of the subject in the Agriculture Ministry (according to plan, the new company would be under the supervision of that office). The concentration of land purchasing in the hands of the company would increase the ministry's control over the subject, which today is divided between the Israel Land Administration and the JNF.

The establishment of the company is being kept strictly confidential and correspondence between the various offices in this matter is classified as secret.

The director of the Israel Land Administration: "The administration has no governmental body to purchase lands for it."

The Finance Ministry spokesman: "One of the duties of the company administration is to see to it that the regulations regarding the establishment of a government company are according to law. The matter pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture."

U.S. DIPLOMAT IN CAMP WITHOUT PERMISSION, DRIVEN OUT

TA192121Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] A U.S. diplomat was driven out of the Hares settlement located in a military camp in Samaria a few days ago. Our correspondent for Arab Affairs says that Edmund Hall, the deputy U.S. consul in Jerusalem, entered the Hares camp without permission. When his identity was discovered, he argued with IDF officers until they threatened to arrest him and then the U.S. diplomat chose to leave.

U.S. sources reacted to the incident saying it was a mere misunderstanding. Our correspondent notes that the Americans have shown much interest lately in the settlements and that the representative of the U.S. Organization of Friends, the Quakers, Jim Fine, is helping the residents of the Arab village of An-Nabi Salih who object to the establishment of the settlement there.

WEST BANK DISTURBANCES REPORTED 19 APRIL

TA191107Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Disruption of school classes occurred in Janin today. High school girl students hurled stones at security personnel and broke the windows of a military government car.

In the village of Dayr Dibwan, in the region of Ramallah, an old handgrenade was found in a schoolyard. It was exploded without causing damage.

PLO supporters and communists in Judaea and Samaria are acting against the tendency of the inhabitants to join the voluntary health insurance scheme that has been introduced by the military administration. This has been learned by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. The communist members of local councils are attempting to prevent the admission of municipal employees to the scheme. To date the voluntary health insurance project has been joined by only 5,000 families in Judaea and Samaria. Following a demand by the employees, the municipality of Bethlehem decided to coopt them to the project. It is the first municipality to do so.

Further Details Reported

TA191708Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Riots that led to grave disruptions took place in Janin today. The rioters hurled stones and hit a military vehicle. Our correspondent Shelomo Raz reports on today's events in Judaea and Samaria:

The riots taking place in Janin today protested against the killing of a local youth who attacked, together with his friend, a bus transporting workers within the boundaries of the green line. In the early morning hours, boys hurled stones at a military vehicle, smashing its windows. A short while later, youths from the refugee camp near Janin gathered in the streets of the town and started throwing stones at the girl students at (Az-Zahara) school, trying to prevent them from going to class. The disruptions increased after the high school girls joined the demonstrations. The girls ran wild in the streets of the town shouting anti-Israeli slogans. The border guard was called in against the demonstrators.

At the beginning of the week the security elements in Judaea and Samaria thought that the disruptions were sporadic incidents that should not be viewed as a new wave of organized riots. However, in the wake of the continuation of the disturbances and their escalation over the last 2 days, it seems that a new wave of organized riots is indeed erupting in the territories.

TERRORIST GROUPS DISCOVERED IN WEST BANK

TA191949Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Within the past 24 hours a Fatah terrorist group was uncovered in Janin. Members of this group hurled a molotov cocktail at an Egged bus yesterday. An IDF spokesman reported that this is one of five groups uncovered by the security forces in Judaea and Samaria and that so far 30 men have been arrested. As for the attack in Janin, a local youth admitted that he had carried out the terrorist act along with two other youths. One of these was later shot dead trying to escape after disobeying an order to stop. The members of this group admitted that on 20 March they carried out a similar terrorist act on an Egged bus.

A seven-terrorist group belonging to the Fatah organization was uncovered in the village of Sammu', in the area south of the Hebron Mountain. A terrorist act in the local labor bureau in January is attributed to its members.

Another six-man terrorist group belonging to the Popular Front of George Habash was also uncovered. It acted in the Jerusalem district and dealt mainly in distributing incitement pamphlets. The members of the group were found in possession of a typewriter and a Xerox machine.

Another group consisting of 10 members acted north of Jerusalem in the region of Qalandiyah. Its members are charged with the hurling of molotov cocktails, hurling stones at civilian and military vehicles and burning tires on the main road leading to Ramallah.

Three terrorists of the Fatah organization, who were active in the Janin area, handed over to the security forces a large quantity of sabotage devices, hand grenades and arms of various types. The three were caught before they succeeded in carrying out terrorist acts. The security forces are continuing their investigation.

YIZHAQ NAVON ELECTED NEW ISRAELI PRESIDENT

TA191451Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister called Mk Yizhaq Navon to congratulate him on his election as the president of the state. The president wished Mr Begin success in the hard tests facing him.

The Knesset elected Yizhaq Navon at noon with a majority of 86 votes, the largest majority ever gained by a candidate for the post of president.

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD BY 15 JUNE

BK191713Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The 15th of June this year has been specified as the date on or before which election to the office of the president of Bangladesh is to be held. This was contained in a notification issued in Dacca today by the office of the chief martial law administration.

INDIA

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrives in New Delhi

JN181750Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife arrived in New Delhi this afternoon at the beginning of his official visit to India. He was received at New Delhi airport by Indian President Neela Sanjeeva Reddy and his wife, Prime Minister Morarji Desai and senior Indian officials.

The president is accompanied by an official delegation composed of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Shakir al-Fahham, minister of higher education; Dr Muhammad al'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, political adviser to the president.

Begins Official Talks

JN191314Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] New Delhi--At 1530 today official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai began with a closed session at President al-Asad's suite at the presidential palace. During the meeting they discussed bilateral matters and international issues.

At 1615 the Syrian and Indian sides held a meeting led by President al-Asad and Morarji Desai at the conference hall in the presidential palace. The Indian and Syrian delegations attended the meeting. Earlier, President al-Asad received the Indian minister of external affairs in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

President al-Asad received the minister of steel and mines and the minister of commerce and cooperation. These two meetings were attended by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi. The talks dealt with cooperation between Syria and India in various fields. The talks also dealt with international issues of common concern and the situation in the Middle East and Asia.

A bilateral meeting was held under Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economics and foreign trade, and the Indian minister of commerce and cooperation. During the meeting, they reviewed trade relations and scientific and technical cooperation relations between the two countries in various industrial fields.

Bilateral committees were formed. The first committee was formed to prepare the trade agreement between the two countries and the second to discuss topics of scientific and technical cooperation.

The third committee will discuss civil aviation. The fourth will discuss matters pertaining to oil prospecting and investment in phosphate and other projects.

At 1030 President al-Asad received Indian Minister of External Affairs Bihari in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Bihari accompanied President al-Asad on his visit to the Indian Parliament, where he attended part of the current discussions. When President al-Asad and his delegation entered the Parliament hall, the speaker stopped the discussion to welcome President al-Asad and the members of the delegation. Members of the Parliament greeted the president with applause for his visit to India. The president left the Parliament for the presidential palace with a warm sendoff by the members of the Parliament.

This morning President al-Asad visited the tomb of leader Mahatma Gandhi and laid a wreath. He was accompanied by George Fernandes, Indian industry minister and chief of the mission of honor, his wife and the members of the Syrian delegation accompanying the president. Fernandes arrived at President al-Asad's residence at 0930 today to accompany him. President al-Asad went to the tomb as soon as Fernandes arrived, laid a wreath and recorded the following statement in the record of visits: It gives me pleasure to visit the tomb of the great leader Mahatma Gandhi during my visit to India and to lay a wreath there. Gandhi was an example for mankind. President al-Asad planted a tree near Mahatma Gandhi's tomb as a symbol of Syrian-Indian friendship. Before leaving the tomb, Al-Asad looked through some of Gandhi's works, and a set of the books was presented to him.

Holds Talks With Desai

BK190917Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 78 BK

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad had his first round of talks with the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, last night. The two leaders discussed how nonalinement could be used to bring about peace in the troubled spots of the world, particularly in Asia. An official spokesmen later told newsmen that the need to diversify bilateral economic and technical cooperation figured in the meeting. The Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, who is accompanying the Syrian president, had a meeting with the commerce minister, Mr Mohan Dharia.

Meets With Ministers

BK190921Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Syrian president, Mr Hafiz al-Asad, had an exchange of views with the ministers for external affairs, steel and mines and commerce who called on him separately in New Delhi today. He is understood to have discussed with Mr Vajpayee the issues likely to come up at the nonalined coordination bureau meeting beginning in Kabul on the 6th of next month. They are also believed to have revieed the situation in west Asia and briefly discu . the relations between India and Syria. With Mr Biju Patnaik and Mr Mohan Dharia, President al-Asad discussed economic and commercial matters.

Earlier, President and Mrs al-Asad, accompanied by Mr George Fernandes, went to Rajghat to pay homage to Gandhiji. Mr Fernandes presented a set of 77 volumes of Mahatama Gandhi's collective works to the Syrian leaders. Mrs al-Asad spent an hour and a half in the Central Cottage Emporium this morning. She showed keen interest in traditional jewelry and dresses.

Banquet Speech

JN182251Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at banquet hosted on evening of 18 April in New Delhi by Indian President Neela Sanjeeva Reddy and Mrs Reddy in his honor--read by announced]

[Text] President Neela Sanjeeva Reddy, Mrs Reddy, Mr Morarji Desai, Mrs Desai, ladies and gentlemen: We are very pleased to be visiting your great country. The hospitality accorded us since our arrival has made us feel the warmth of the existing friendship between our two countries.

On behalf of my wife, and in my name as well as on behalf of the members of the Syrian Arab delegation, I would like to express our most profound thanks to President and Mrs Reddy for their kind invitation to make this visit. I thank President Reddy for the expressions of warm welcome which we have just heard.

We have come to India firmly resolved to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and the sincere desire to meet with the president of India, with the prime minister and the members of his government and with your friendly people, and also to take the opportunity afforded by the visit to closely acquaint ourselves with your country's landmarks, modern progress, rich legacy, ancient culture and the distinct character of its many walks of life.

A cultural legacy of more than 3,000 years is undoubtedly bound to be a source of pride for the Indian people and an object of appreciation and admiration by all peoples of the world.

Like India, Syria has known an intermixture of civilizations throughout its long history--an intermixture which has enriched mankind with many of the bases of learning. Throughout history there have also been links and exchanges between our two peoples in more than one field. Our people have become acquainted with the products of India and have learned the culture and arts of India. This exchange has left its imprint on both regions.

Both countries fought for their independence. We followed with full sympathy and support India's struggle for independence. We followed with full respect the positions taken by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of this struggle who, through his person, teachings and leadership of the struggle, embodied all noble human ideals.

After a long and bitter struggle, Syria and India achieved their independence almost at the same time. There was just a difference of 1 year and a few months. Independence enabled the two countries to get to know each other better and to strengthen their mutual ties.

Our common Asiatic origin and our struggle within the framework of Arab-Asian solidarity, which later developed and became Afro-Asian solidarity, and our activities within the community of nonalined states have placed us on a similar course in foreign policy. We are pursuing this course with a profound faith in the role which our two countries must play within the framework of peoples' struggle for a better world--a world in which justice, equality and peace prevail, and a world which is free of colonialism, racism, exploitation and aggression in all its forms.

Furthermore, the existence of a common desire and the real potential to strengthen bilateral relations were our common starting point for devoloping cooperation between Syria and India and expanding the scope of this cooperation in the interest of the Syrian Arab and Indian peoples.

In recent years, there has been an exchange of visits between officials in the two countries to explore further areas for cooperation. We are fully confident that our current visit, and the talks we will hold, will achieve the objective of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, I must express on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, and in my name, our gratitude and thanks to India--the government and people--for supporting our struggle against the aggression which we have been facing and fighting for the past 30 years. The source of this aggression is the imperialist forces' greed for our area and their desire to control and exploit it. These are the factors which encouraged the racist Zionist movement to invade the land of Palestine and to expel its people. The various forms of military, economic and political support given to this movement, after is assumed the form of a state in Israel, encouraged it to continue its aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab countries.

As you can see, Israel's greed for expansion knows no limit as long as it continues to hold the support of imperialism not only in refusing to withdraw from the Arab territories it previously occupied through aggression, but also in occupying new areas. A few weeks ago Israel attacked Lebanon, an independent sovereign state and a member of the United Nations, and occupied southern Lebanon. By doing this, Israel has defied the world and flouted the UN Charter and international law. Israel used a fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv as an excuse and a justification for this aggression, although the members of the Palestinian resistance who carried out the Tel Aviv operation did not launch their operation from the land Israel occupied in southern Lebanon. This occupation will not prevent the fedayeen from carrying out other operations against the Israeli forces, whether in southern Lebanon or in occupied Palestine itself.

Israel denies the rights of the Palestinian people. As a matter of fact, it denies the existence of this people after having expelled them from their own homeland through savage massacres, many of which were perpetrated by the present Israeli prime minister. Innocent children, women, old people and youths were killed without reason or justification in the Day Yasi, Kaft Qasim, Qibyah, Nahhalin and other massacres.

Naturally, the Palestinian people cannot forget thier homeland and their rights. They have the right under every law to fight those who usurped their land and rights. The world has recognized these Palestinian rights. Israel is the only one defying the world and hampering every earnest effort to achieve a just peace in our region.

Ladies and gentlemen, Syria has exerted every sincere effort to achieve a just peace. However, this peace cannot be achieved as long as Arab territories are occupied and the Palestinian people's rights are usurped. In the face of Israel's insistence on continuing its expansion, we have no choice but to fight this expansion with all the means available to us as well as through solidarity with our Arab brothers and with the support of our friends in the world. When we fought the October war, our aim was to liberate our occupied territories and enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights. In the midst of the fierce October battles, we sincerely called for achieving a just peace based on Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and for guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights.

We believe in the justice of our cause and stand and are confident that all freedom-loving peoples who seek a just peace stand on our side and support our struggle.

Mr president, ladies and gentlemen, along with the greetings of the Syrian Arab people I also bring to you their sincere desire to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and their best wishes for the Indian people.

I would like to conclude my speech by greeting President Reddy and wishing him and Mrs Reddy continued good health and happiness. I greet Mr Morarji Desai and also wish him continued good health and happiness. I greet the people of India and wish them further success, progress and prosperity. May Syrian-Indian friendship continue to strengthen.

Further Talks

BK191607Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 78 BK

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria had prolonged talks in New Delhi today with Indian leaders, mainly on the west Asia situation and also on bilateral, economic and trade relations. He and Mr Morarji Desai met in private for over an hour, and later they were joined by their colleagues. The Indian side included Mr Charan Singh, Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr Vajpayee, Mr Mohan Dharia, Mr Purushottam Kaushik and Mr Somarendra Kundu.

The Syrian leader apprised them of the latest situation in west Asia and his country's position on various issues. He is understood to have explained how Israel has been extending its original borders through aggression, displacing the Palestinians and occupying lands in Syria, Egypt and Jordan. He stressed the need for a peaceful solution, and said Syria would like to see the dispute resolved through the implementation of UN resolutions on the subject.

Mr Morarji Desai reiterated India's stand that nobody should be allowed to retain the fruits of aggression.

The external affairs minister had a separate meeting with President al-Asad earlier, and they exchanged views on west Asia. Besides reaffirming India's known stand on the question, he is believed to have stressed the need for Arab unity. Mr Biju Patnaik and Mr Mohan Dharia, who also called on President al-Asad separately, discussed economic and commercial matters with him.

Speaking at a civic reception, the Syrian president spoke highly of India's efforts to create a new world without big disparities. He appreciated the support of this country to the struggle against racism and exploitation. Mr al-Asad expressed the hope that this role of India will be further enhanced. Mr al-Asad reaffirmed his country's resolve to do everything possible to strengthen the Arab front to achieve a just peace.

Welcoming Mr al-Asad, the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, also referred to the just fight of the Arabs against the occupation of their territory and the deprivation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Mr Desai said Mr al-Asad is known for his independent stand on the west Asian question. India believes that international relations should be based on peaceful coexistence between Asians and should be free from all forms of colonial exploitation and racial discrimination.

In the civic address the deputy mayor, Mr (Imdad Samray), spoke of India's age-old ties with Syria. He said the Syrian people have made great progress under Mr al-Asad's leadership despite adverse circumstances.

A few specimens of Delhi's handicrafts were presented to the distinguished guest.

Delhi Speech

JN191824Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text of speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in New Delhi on 19 April at reception hosted in his honor by head of the New Delhi Municipal Council--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Mayor of New Delhi, ladies and gentlemen: I thank Mr Morarji Desai for the good sentiments he expressed in his speech. I also thank the mayor of New Delhi and the members of the Municipal Council for this reception which has given us the chance to meet with New Delhi dignitaries and with this gathering of the sons of the capital. You have overwhelmed us with this reception. We appreciate the significance of this friendly gesture and consider it an honor to our people. It is yet another bond to be added to the bonds of friendship existing between Syria and India.

We take pride in this friendship and feel that there is a mutual wish to consolidate friendship and cooperation between both countries. This is the primary aim of our current visit to India.

As it has always represented steadfastness, Damascus is now the symbol of Arab steadfastness against conspiracies and the onslaughts of imperialism and Zionism. These conspiracies and aggressions aim at imposing capitulation on the Arab nation in the name of peace. However, the difference between peace and capitulation is great. Capitulation means retaining injustice, continuing occupation, usurping rights and dispersing people. We reject all this and categorically reject injustice.

Peace is what is based on justice. Peace means the end of aggression, occupation and the dispersal of those who have had their rights usurped. Therefore, we will continue to resist aggression until we achieve the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and until the Palestinian people's rights are restored.

We will do our utmost to back the front of Arab steadfastness which will end occupation and the usurpation of rights. Undoubtedly, the burdens of defense, which are the result of our steadfastness against Israeli aggression and imperialist conspiracies, have affected our efforts for development in Syria. Despite this, development in our country is proceeding along the course set for it and is making good progress.

We believe that there is wide scope for cooperation between us and our friends. We believe that this cooperation is mutually beneficial to our country and to our friends. Syrian national unity is an irrefutable fact. This unity became increasingly entrenched under the leadership of the 8 March Revolution. We are proud that this unity is one of the strongest bases of our steadfastness against the challenges we are facing.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are constantly following developments in India with great interest and fraternal sympathy. We wish the friendly Indian people well. As I said yesterday, we appreciate India's role in international forums and hope that this role will increase, because we believe that by adopting the policy of nonalinement, by calling for total disarmament and by supporting the struggle of peoples for liberation and independence, and against racism, aggression and exploitation, India is greatly contributing to the search for a new world in which disparities among peoples will disappear--disparities under which primarily the countries of the Third World are suffering.

I conclude my speech by saluting you, Mr Prime Minister. I hail the Municipal Council and reiterate the greetings which I am bringing from the people of our capital, Damascus, to the sons of Delhi--this great historic city. Thank you.

SELF-RELIANCE SEEN IN HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION IN 2 YEARS

BK190925Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The country will become self-reliant in the production of heavy water within 2 years. This was stated by the prime minister during question time in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr Morarji Desai said the requirement of heavy water for atomic powerplants in the country will be about 250 to 300 tons per annum. He said India is doing its best to meet the requirements indigenously. The heavy water plant in operation at Nangal is producing about 14 tons of heavy water per year. To meet the requirements of heavy water for the atomic power station, construction of four heavy water plants have been undertaken, one each at Kotah, Baroda, Tuticurin and Talcher, with a total production capacity of 300 tons per annum.

The house was informed that most of the heavy water is being imported from the Soviet Union. About rupees 112 million were spent on import of heavy water in the last 3 years.

PAKISTAN

ANWARUL HAQ SWORN IN AS ACTING PRESIDENT

BK200945Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 20 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, formally assumed office as president of Pakistan this morning. He will perform presidential functions during the absence abroad of President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, who left Karachi this morning for Vienna for a 2-week medical checkup.

The presidential oath of office was administered to Mr Justice Anwarul Haq by the senior judge of the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Mohammad Akram, at a ceremony at the presidential office in Rawalpindi today. Later, the president, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, administered the oath of office of acting chief justice of Pakistan to Mr Justice Mohammad Akram. The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, also took part in the swearing-in ceremony. Among others present on the occasion were the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen Mohammad Sharif; acting Punjab Governor Mr Justice Aslam Riaz Hussain; advisers to the chief martial law administrator, the attorney general of Pakistan, the chief justice of the Lahore High Court, Supreme Court judges, federal secretaries and high civil and military officials.

SUPREME COURT POSTPONES BHUTTO APPEAL CASE TO 20 MAY

BK151058Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 15 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court will commence hearings on the formal appeals against the death sentences imposed by the Lahore High Court in the murder case of Mr Mohammad Ahmad Khan on 20 May. Earlier, the hearings were to commence on 6 May. The court issued an order to this effect in Rawalpindi today while dealing with several applications filed on behalf of the defendant Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The court also permitted the defense attorney, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, to file his appeal papers after the 2 May date requested earlier.

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